



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Public Safety

KEITH D. SQUIRES
Commissioner

September 15, 2014

Michael Sullivan
Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
60 East South Temple, 3rd Floor
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Michael Sullivan,

The Utah Department of Public Safety has been asked to provide information in regard to Daylight Savings Time and motor vehicle crashes in Utah. In response to that request, an analysis of the last five years of Utah crash data (2009-2013) was conducted to study the difference in the number of motor vehicle crashes that occurred during the week before and after Daylight Savings Time. Additional analysis was conducted to study the difference in the percentage of motor vehicle crashes that occurred throughout the day. The following was found.

There was a 9.5% decrease in the number of motor vehicle crashes during the week after changing to Daylight Savings Time (4,097 total crashes) compared to the number that occurred during the week before the time change (4,529 total crashes). However, it is difficult to say the decrease in motor vehicle crashes is attributed solely to the time change. There are other factors such as weather that may have contributed to the difference.

Additionally, the analysis showed the highest percentage of crashes during the weeks before and after the switch to Daylight Savings Time occurred within the 5:00 pm hour (approximately 9.5% of crashes), which is consistent with the norm. The analysis also showed as compared to the norm, there was very little to no difference between the percentage of crashes occurring at sunrise and sunset during the weeks before and after the switch to Daylight Savings Time.

In summary, changing to Daylight Savings Time does not appear to be a significant factor in regard to motor vehicle crashes in Utah. Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith D. Squires".

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner

